

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /055 W
-----089542 231618Z /43
O 231601Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4333
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0 1 5 4 5

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PDIP, SOPN, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIETS PROTEST DISTRIBUTION OF USG STATEMENTS
ON ORLOV

1. I WAS CALLED TODAY (MAY 23) TO COME TO DIP AGENCY
WITHIN HALF HOUR TO RECEIVE WHAT PROVED TO BE ORAL PROTEST
FROM LENINGRAD REPRESENTATIVE, YEFIMOV, AGAINST THE DIS-
TRIBUTION IN LENINGRAD OF EMBASSY TEXT OF STATE DEPARTMENT
AND AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG'S MAY 18 STATEMENTS ON ORLOV TRIAL.
YEFIMOV WAS VISIBLY CONCERNED THAT HIS PROTEST NOT LEAD TO
POLEMICAL DISCUSSION OF ORLOV TRIAL AND TRIED IN VARIOUS
WAYS TO SAY THAT THIS WAS AN ISSUE ON HIGHER LEVEL BETWEEN
OUR GOVERNMENTS AND SHOULD NOT AFFECT THE GOOD RELATIONS
PREVAILING BETWEEN CONGEN AND DIP AGENCY.

2. READING FROM HANDWRITTEN NOTES, PRESUMABLY TAKEN OVER
PHONE FROM MOSCOW, YEFIMOV SAID THAT DIP AGENCY HAD INFORMED
MID REGARDING NATURE OF MATERIALS WHICH IT HAD RECEIVED
FROM CONGEN AND HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE "STRENUOUS
PROTEST." HE DESCRIBED "THIS PRACTICE" AS UNACCEPTABLE,
SAID THAT THIS WAS A "SERIOUS WARNING" AND THAT THE SOVIET
AUTHORITIES "EXPECTED A FULL CESSATION" OF SENDING "SUCH
MATERIALS." BECAUSE THE PROTEST WAS LOOSELY WORDED, I ASKED
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WHETHER DIP AGENCY WAS PROTESTING THE PRACTICE OF DISTRI-
BUTING OFFICIAL TEXTS OR THE PARTICULAR CONTENTS OF THE
MATERIAL IN QUESTION. YEFIMOV'S DEPUTY, MR. BATURIN, WAS
PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT I NOT INTERPRET THIS PROTEST
AS DIRECTED AGAINST EXCHANGING INFORMATION OR MATERIALS
UNDER THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT.

3. MR. YEFIMOV WAS ANXIOUS THAT I CONFIRM TO HIM THAT I HAD NOT PERSONALLY SENT THE DOCUMENTS IN QUESTION. WHILE I COULD CONFIRM THAT I HAD NOT SEEN THE PARTICULAR DOCUMENTS BEFORE THEY WERE SENT, I STRESSED THAT I WAS OF COURSE AWARE OF USG STATEMENTS AND ASSUMED THAT, LIKE OTHER OFFICIAL USG STATEMENTS, THEY WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED. LIKE RESOLUTIONS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED BY CONGRESS ON ORLOV SENTENCING, THEY REFLECTED STRONG FEELINGS OF AMERICAN PEOPLE WHICH USG OFFICIALS, OF COURSE, ENDORSED. I SAID THAT MR. YEFIMOV WAS OF COURSE WELL AWARE FROM LONG DISCUSSIONS IN BELGRADE THAT US AND MANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS DID NOT AGREE WITH SOVIET INTERPRETATION OF WHAT WAS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WHEN MR. YEFIMOV NOTED THAT ORLOV HAD BEEN DULY CONVICTED BY SOVIET COURT, I COMMENTED THAT HERE, TOO, THERE WERE STRONG DIFFERENCES OF VIEW AS TO WHAT WAS DUE PROCESS AND THAT I WOULD USE ANOTHER LESS OFFICIAL OCCASION TO TELL HIM IN DETAIL HOW I FELT ABOUT THE PROCEDURES WHICH I UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED IN THE CASE OF THIS TRIAL.

4. MR. YEFIMOV DID NOT CONTEST MY STATEMENT THAT MR. ORLOV HAD UNDERTAKEN THE RESPONSIBILITY INCUMBENT ON INDIVIDUALS AS WELL AS STATES TO SEE THAT THE TERMS OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT WERE FULFILLED. I SUGGESTED THAT MR. YEFIMOV'S CONTENTION THAT IT WAS THE ROLE OF EACH STATE TO REPORT ON ITS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI ACCORD WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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SOMEWHAT NAIVE; ONE COULD HARDLY EXPECT A STATE WHICH CONSCIOUSLY VIOLATED THE AGREEMENT TO CONDEMN ITSELF.

5. I WARNED YEFIMOV THAT I CERTAINLY COULD NOT EXCLUDE THE FACT THAT WE MIGHT DISTRIBUTE SIMILAR OFFICIAL STATEMENTS OBJECTIONABLE TO THE SOVIET SIDE IN THE FUTURE. WE COULD NOT ACCEPT SOVIET CENSORSHIP OF WHAT WE WISHED TO DISTRIBUTE. REALISTICALLY, WHEN WE AGREE TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION WITH EACH OTHER, WE CANNOT ASSUME THAT EVERYTHING WE RECEIVE WILL MEET WITH EACH OTHER'S APPROVAL. INDEED, STATES, LIKE INDIVIDUALS, CAN BENEFIT FROM LEARNING HOW OTHERS VIEW THEIR BEHAVIOR. CERTAINLY AS FAR AS SOVIET DISCUSSION OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN THE US IS CONCERNED I WAS SURE THAT THE LARGE ROOM IN WHICH WE WERE SEATED WOULD NOT HOLD ALL THE ARTICLES ON US INTERNAL AFFAIRS WHICH I HAD READ IN THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT AND PARTY ORGANS, ISVESTIYA AND PRAVDA, SINCE I WAS FIRST CONCERNED WITH SOVIET AFFAIRS IN 1948. IF LENINGRAD OFFICIALS DID NOT LIKE WHAT WE SENT THEM, THEY COULD ALWAYS THROW IT IN THE WASTEPAPER BASKET -- AS I DID WITH SOME SOVIET MATERIALS.

6. I NEVERTHELESS AGREED TO CARRY BACK THE FIVE ENVELOPES ADDRESSED RESPECTIVELY TO THE DIP AGENCY AND THREE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AND TO CONVEY MID'S PROTEST TO MY GOVERNMENT. I TOLD MR. YEFIMOV THAT I WOULD PROBABLY PROVIDE HIM AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO HIS PROTEST -- A STATEMENT WHICH DID NOT SEEM TO FILL HIM WITH JOY.

7. COMMENT: IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT, AS OF THIS WRITING, THE EMBASSY HAD NOT RECEIVED AN ANALOGOUS PROTEST TO ITS DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAME STATEMENTS. BUCHANAN

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